



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

May 2005 Volume 66 Number 5

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



**Canada has declared 2005 the Year of the Veteran**



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

## Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	<a href="mailto:ve1mr@rac.ca">ve1mr@rac.ca</a>
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	<a href="mailto:ve1wo@rac.ca">ve1wo@rac.ca</a>
2nd V.P. - Darryll Perrin, VE1HUP	826-1439	<a href="mailto:ve1hup@rac.ca">ve1hup@rac.ca</a>
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	<a href="mailto:dhcdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca">dhcdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca</a>
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	<a href="mailto:ve1cdd@rac.ca">ve1cdd@rac.ca</a>
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	<a href="mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca">tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		<a href="mailto:ve1phk@rac.ca">ve1phk@rac.ca</a>
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	<a href="mailto:ve1ai@rac.ca">ve1ai@rac.ca</a>

## Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	<a href="mailto:ve1wph@rac.ca">ve1wph@rac.ca</a>
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	<a href="mailto:ve1vck@rac.ca">ve1vck@rac.ca</a>
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	<a href="mailto:dgeorge@is.dal.ca">dgeorge@is.dal.ca</a>
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	<a href="mailto:ve1ent@rac.ca">ve1ent@rac.ca</a>
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	<a href="mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca">tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	<a href="mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca">tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	<a href="mailto:ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca">ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca</a>
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	<a href="mailto:dhcdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca">dhcdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca</a>
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	<a href="mailto:ve1eda@rac.ca">ve1eda@rac.ca</a>
Flea market 2004 Chair'man - Ed Grace, VE1EGG	865-8295	<a href="mailto:ve1egga@rac.ca">ve1egga@rac.ca</a>
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	<a href="mailto:ve1wjm@rac.ca">ve1wjm@rac.ca</a>
NSARA Director - Joe MacPherson, VE1CH	852-1295	<a href="mailto:jmp@hfx.eastlink.ca">jmp@hfx.eastlink.ca</a>
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, May, 2005 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. The speaker will be Fred, VE1FA on WW2 emergency transmitters. Guests are welcome.

## GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

### CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

### PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE  
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS  
accessible through the LAN

## Take-15 Net Controllers

**NOTE:** There have been some changes. This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



May 15	Charles	VE1MCR
May 22	Chris	VA1CDB
May 29	Pierre	VE1PTR
June 5	Herb	VE1HX
June 12	Tom	VE1GTC
June 19	Win	VE1WIN

## Silent Key

Don Dunnington, VE1AMJ

!!!! Check out the new Halifax IRLP reflector web site  
<http://www.discoveryreflector.ca>

## Puzzler- Do You Know?

What is the Maunder Minimum?  
Answer to puzzler on page 8



*If you want to feel rich,  
just count all the things you have  
that money can't buy.*

## FOR SALE

Open to club members, we have a completely refurbished TH6DXX 6 element triband beam for sale \$650 or reasonable offer. Offers accepted until May. 18th. Contact Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO at 865-4198 or [ve1wo@rac.ca](mailto:ve1wo@rac.ca)

*Do Lipton Tea employees take  
coffee breaks?*

**Deadline for submissions to the  
May Reflector is  
Saturday, June 4, 2005**

*Events for Your Calendar*

June 11 will be the date of the **2005 DownEast Flea Market**

**Field Day 2005** June 24, 25, 26.

July 1 – **Canada Day Contest** is a one-day contest beginning at 0001 UTC. Sponsored by RAC, it emphasizes working Canadian stations on HF through 2M.

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July 29 & 30- **IOTA** (Islands On The Air) is an annual event sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain

August 13&14 -**MS Bike Tour**

The second annual **DX Forum**,  
DATE: August 6 TIME: 0930 – 1630

August 19 & 20 – International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend The HARC will operate once again from the Old Red School House at Peggy's Cove, just a short distance from the lighthouse. Set-up on Friday and operate from Saturday at 0001 UTC to Sunday at 2359 UTC

Sept. 30 – Oct 1; The **International Search and Rescue (SAR) Competition** will be held in Halifax and HARC has been invited to operate a special events station to commemorate the occasion. Using a special call sign, we will contact Coast Guard Auxiliary stations and other amateurs. We expect to operate from The Canadian Coast Guard base in Dartmouth on Friday and from the Maritime Museum in Halifax on Saturday. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

The next IARU Administrative Council meeting is set for September 17-18, 2005, in Switzerland following the IARU Region 1 Conference.

The AMSAT-NA Web site is  
<http://www.amsat.org>

Rules for the new CQ DX Marathon will be on the CQ Web site  
<<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>> and in CQ magazine's May issue.

**DOWNEAST FLEA MARKET**

**SATURDAY JUNE 11, '05**

Where:

The Halifax Forum Complex  
corner of Young and Windsor  
St., Halifax

Doors open: for sellers at 0630  
for buyers at 0900

The tables are free;

Entry fee is \$3.00 per person

Reserve tables by contacting

Ed, VE1EGG [ve1egg@rac.ca](mailto:ve1egg@rac.ca)

Talk in frequency: VE1PSR  
(147.270+)

Ham Social Friday night June 10,  
2005 at 1900 at The Jolly Mug. For  
information contact [ve1pq@rac.ca](mailto:ve1pq@rac.ca)

Breakfast get together at 0730  
June 11/05 at the Steak and Stein,  
6061 Young St, Halifax

There will be a talk by Wayne,  
VE1WPH, on the ISS set up

Hope to see you there

'73 Ed, VE1EGG

**International Lighthouse/  
Lightship Weekend**

is an annual August event which attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships. The World Lighthouse Day is held on the Sunday of the event and lighthouse keepers/managers/caretakers all around the world open their lighthouses to the public.  
<http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseday.html>

Tony England, W0ORE, the second US astronaut to ever use Amateur Radio in space, will be a special guest of the League's at ARRL EXPO 2005 at Dayton Hamvention  
See <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/nc/2005/>>  
and <<http://www.hamvention.org>>

*If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER  
from diarrhea...does that mean that  
one enjoys it?*

**Special Prefixes** Authorized to Celebrate Opening of the New Canadian War Museum and VE Day + 60

At the request of RAC, Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian radio amateurs to use special event prefixes for the month of May, 2005, to mark the opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa on 8 May, 2005 coincident with the 60th Anniversary of VE Day.

The official opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, on May 8, 2005, the 60th anniversary of VE Day which, on May 8, 1945, officially ended World War II in Europe.

2005 has been declared The Year of the Veteran by the Canadian government in recognition and commemoration of the determination, service & sacrifice of Canada's WWII veterans.

All Canadian radio amateurs are authorized to use the following special event prefixes during the period **May 1 to May 31, 2005** inclusive:

CF for VA stations

CG for VE stations

CH for VO stations

CI0 for VY0 stations

CI1 for VY1 stations

CI2 for VY2 stations.



(Thanks to Jim Dean, VE3IQ  
Vice President Regulatory Affairs  
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Courtesy of Sohail Anjum., VE3ITU  
Forwarded by Chris, VA1CDB.

Howard, VE1DHD, is working to organize a "How To" **Field Day Contesting Workshop**; topics to include

♦ Overview of the Radios (focus on contest operating to minimise QRM)

♦ Overview of the new Laptops

♦ Overview of WriteLog – optimizing its effectively

♦ Logging the QSO

♦ Looking for Dups

♦ Programmable keyers

♦ Hands-on demonstration of contest practice programs

♦ Field Day Contest SIMULATOR

He's trying to bring it together for Saturday, June 4, 2005; 9AM to 1PM

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

June is fast approaching and the ARRL Field Day is again being co-ordinated by the executive but we do need people to take on tasks. Below are some of the most important tasks, they are not all of them, we have volunteers for a few of the other tasks not listed. We need people to co-ordinate and help the co-ordinators with these tasks, if you can help please contact an executive member or a co-ordinator once we have identified them. Some tasks require only one person while other will require quite a committee. Please help where you can

**FIELD DAY TASKS**

- \* Bonus points coordinator
- \* Copy FD message Friday evening
- \* Prepare SM message Saturday
- \* Loading and transportation of gear to site.
- \* Checking gear beforehand - antennas, feedlines, stakes, bits and pieces
- \* Organize radios and associated gear - accessories, clocks, lamps, power bars, etc. ) for each station
- \* Logging - software, computers, training, testing
- \* Scrap paper and pencils for operating positions
- \* Arrange borrowed equipment - EMO trailer, GSAR vehicle(s), generators
- \* Food - purchase food, arrange delivery
- \* Operators and loggers - CW, SSB, GOTA, other
- \* Setup crew
- \* Take down crew
- \* Safety person
- \* SSB station setup - where, what gear
- \* CW station setup - where, what gear
- \* VHF/UHF station setup - where, what gear
- \* Satellite station setup - where, what gear
- \* GOTA station setup - where, what gear
- \* demonstration modes setup - where, what gear, what modes.
- \* Transportation of gear from site and unloading.

I am sure I have missed many small tasks and any help is a plus. The setup and takedown will not be as intensive as last year since we will be at the EOC in the 2F class.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 13 April 1, 2005

Project OSCAR, the oldest Amateur Radio club dedicated to amateur satellites, has inaugurated a service aimed at encouraging satellite newcomers. "**The Satellite Beacon**" is a monthly column produced by Project OSCAR members that Amateur Radio newsletter editors may freely republish. Topics cover a wide range of satellite topics geared to new or novice satellite users. Project OSCAR Vice President and Beacon Editor Emily Clarke, W0EEC, says that by publishing "The Satellite Beacon," Project OSCAR hopes to provide a reliable source of information about amateur satellites at the local level and keep interest in ham radio high as the solar minimum approaches. Newsletter editors may subscribe to a monthly electronic distribution or download any of the currently available articles directly from "The Satellite Beacon" Web page <<http://www.projectoscar.net/beacon.php>>. For more information, visit the Project OSCAR Web site <<http://www.projectoscar.net>>

**NET CONTROLLERS**

I have added two new net controllers and I would like to see at least two more if possible. It is an easy job and with an increasing number of net controllers you would only be doing the net a few times a year. This is an easy way to do something for the club

Thank you for reading.

Bill Elliott, VE1MR

Phone - 865-8567

E-mail - [ve1mr@rac.ca](mailto:ve1mr@rac.ca)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, # 16  
April 22, 2005

**Field Day 2005** is the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Per rule 7.3.2, 100 bonus points are available to FD stations in all classes for bona fide efforts to obtain publicity for your Field Day operation from local media. ARRL Field Day 2005 publicity information now is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2005/04/fddocs>> for public information officers and clubs. The page includes sample news releases and information on publicizing your participation in Field Day 2005. Amateur Radio Week 2005 is June 19-26.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 14  
The 24th annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is soliciting **technical papers** for presentation at the conference and for publication in the conference Proceedings. The event will be held Sept. 23-25 in Santa Ana, California. Presentation at the conference is not required for publication. Submit papers by August 9 to Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, ARRL 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 or via e-mail to [maty@arrl.org](mailto:maty@arrl.org). Additional conference information is on the DCC Web site <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc/>>.

*There comes a time when  
you should stop expecting  
other people to make a big  
deal about your birthday.  
That time is age eleven.*





## Hands Across the Border - Hams helping Hams

by D. Howard Dickson, VE1DHD

You have to admire passion and commitment, and Richard Provonchee (K1RBP) is certainly passionate about sailing and he is fully committed to making a single-handed Trans-Atlantic crossing this spring.

Richard plans to set sail from Cushing Maine on the Victoria Day weekend in May 2005 to sail across the Atlantic to Portugal in his 27foot sloop, *Vittoria*. Sound crazy? Well to land lubbers – it very well may sound crazy. However, to those of us who live by the ocean and sail, this is a dream of a lifetime. And that is exactly how Richard described it as he spoke with me in my home in Seabright Nova Scotia recently.

**How VE1DHD got involved** - It started recently with an Email from Richard to the Executive of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. He was asking if there was a Ham in Halifax with phone patch capabilities that might be willing to assist him in making contact with his wife Diana who will be in Halifax during the time he sails the Atlantic. I have an old Yaesu "Landliner" that came with my first HF rig – FT-101EE. I have long ago retired the FT-101EE for a Kenwood TS-850s but kept the Landliner because of the superior speaker that it has. I got in touch with Dick Grantham – VE1AI – and Dick walked me through the process of linking my Kenwood to the Landliner and so I am now all set to assist Richard as he works his way across the Atlantic.

**The Halifax connection** - Wondering why Diana was going to be in Halifax while Richard sails the Atlantic? Well, it turns out that Diana is a Canadian and she and Richard are newlyweds. Diana teaches in Halifax and Richard is a Biological Engineer

living and working in the private sector in Cushing Maine. He is in



the process of immigrating to Nova Scotia to be with Diana, but this whole open-ocean sailing adventure was planned long before they even met and Diana is being incredibly supportive of Richard's desire to make this trip on his own.

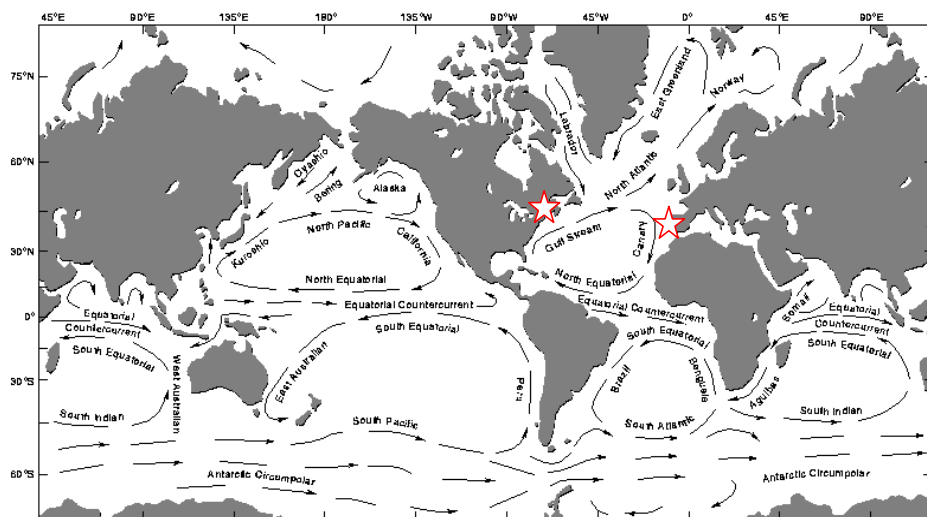
**About the vessel** – *Vittoria* is a Bristol-27 – a 27-foot sloop, heavy by today's standards - 6,600-pound displacement with 2,575 pounds of internal lead ballast in a full keel. The Bristol-27 was designed and built in the mid to late 1960s and has proven to be highly reliable. She's roomy! She's fast – 6 knots hull speed! And she's a good heavy weather performer! Made of high-impact Fiberglass reinforced polyester resin, this is a tough vessel. In the 60s, builders were not quite sure just how well Fiberglass would stand up as a boat-building material, so they 'over built' these early boats. According to one source - the Bristol-27, like most Bristol yachts, was **built like a "brick lighthouse"**.

For those who are interested the following are the Bristol-27 specifica-

tions - Designer: Carl A. Alberg  
Builder: Bristol Yachts  
L-O-A: 27' 2"; L-W-L: 19' 9"  
Beam: 8' 0"; Draft: 4' 0"  
Ballast: 2575 lbs. (internal lead)  
Displacement: 6600 lbs.  
Sail Area: 340 sq. ft.

**About the voyage** – Richard has a home by the ocean in Cushing Maine where he keeps his boat. Cushing is just south of Rockland Maine. Richard plans to pull-anchor on the weekend of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will head southeast from Cushing Maine until he reaches the 40<sup>th</sup> parallel. Why south-east? As the old-timers in Main say – "When leaving Maine for Europe - Head south-east until the butter melts then east". The real reason of course is the Gulf Stream. This western boundary current of the North Atlantic, moves up along the US east coast from the Florida region and at the 40<sup>th</sup> parallel (Cape Hattaras) it begins to swing eastward. The Gulf Stream moves along at a surprising speed and transports a significant amount of warm water towards the poles. Richard hopes to be able to take advantage of somewhere between 0.5 and 0.8 knots of water current, on top of the speed he will achieve from favourable winds. Once it reaches the area of the Grand Banks, the structure of the Gulf Stream changes from a single front to multiple, branching fronts. One major branch curves north along the continental slope,

(Continued on page 7)



Gary, VEIRGG, referred me to the Internet for Morse Help -ed

FROM [http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/cw\\_ss\\_list\\_proc.html](http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/cw_ss_list_proc.html)  
With the introduction of the new Morse code group for @, my friend Mark AC7XR thought I should include it with my list of procedure signals for Morse code. I thought about it and concluded that @ is not really a procedure signal, but actually a punctuation character like quotes, commas, etc.

Even so, Mark had a great point about putting the new code group on my web site, thus this page of Morse code punctuation code groups was born. Of course these are the Continental Morse code groups since that is the style of Morse we use on the ham bands. American Morse aficionados will know somewhat different code groups for the symbols. There is also a bit of controversy or ambiguity among the code groups which I cover in the notes below the table.

This list courtesy of K3WWP's Ham Radio Activities <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>

Symbol	Code group	Name
"	..-.-.	Quotation mark
\$	...-.-	Dollar sign
'	..- - -.	Apostrophe
(	..- -.	Open parenthesis (1)
)	..- -.	Close parenthesis
[	..- -.	Open square bracket (1)
]	..- -.	Close square bracket
+	..-.-.	Plus sign (2)
,	- -.-.-	Comma
-	-....-	Hyphen or single dash
.	..-.-.	Period
/	..-.-.	Slant
:	- - -...	Colon
;	..-.-.	Semicolon (3)
=	..-.-.	Equal sign or double dash (4)
?	..- -.	Question mark
@	..-.-.	At symbol (5)
_	..- -.	Underline
	..-.-.	Paragraph
!	- - -.	Exclamation point (6)

### Comments from Gary

The only thing I can add to this is that the **Break** (BK) can be written in shorthand as an equal sign (=) and the **end-of-message** (AR) can be written as a plus sign (+). Generally speaking, when you're copying conversational CW, the other prosigns wouldn't get written down anyway: they are not important to the content of the message..

Other hints: - Use block letters only when writing down CW traffic  
- Use a forward slash through a zero to distinguish it from an "O"  
- Draw a short horizontal line under the number "1" to distinguish it from an "I"  
- Draw a short horizontal line through the middle of "Z" to distinguish it from a "2"  
- Draw a short horizontal line through middle of the number "7", just because it looks cool  
- Draw a small circle around a period (.) so that it becomes visible in the copied text and doesn't get missed.

- In any number in which the period is used as a decimal point, write down the letter "R" in lieu of the period. Also, when sending numbers with decimals, the letter "R" can be sent in lieu of a period to indicate a decimal point.

Go to URL <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/morse.htm>

That link will take one to absolutely everything -- EVERYTHING! --a person would ever want to know about CW, including formats for typical messages, etc.

Hope this is of value. Gary, VE1RGB



### Notes:

- (1) - The close parenthesis code group is often used for both open and close parentheses and square brackets.
- (2) - You'll recognize this to be the same as **AR** - the end of transmission procedure signal.
- (3) - This is also listed in some sources as ..-.- but I believe ..-.-. is official.
- (4) - The same as **BT** - the break in text procedure signal.
- (5) - Newly adopted by the ITU in December 2003. To become official in July 2004 if approved by all member states.
- (6) - Commonly used, but not official in the Continental Morse code. It's taken from the official American Morse code group.



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 45

Jim Moritz, M0BMU, in Hertfordshire, England, recently was able to receive LF signals transmitted by 3 North American stations operating on 2200 meters (137.777 kHz). Copied using a computer equipped with ARGO software were the "QRSS120" very slow-speed CW signals from WD2XES, operated by John, W1TAG, in Massachusetts; Joe Craig, VO1NA, near St Johns, NL; Laurence Howell, KL1X/5, at WD2XDW, in Oklahoma. Moritz received the 3 signals Oct.29 at about 0300 UTC, reports Craig, noting that Howell's LF CW signals were detected recently in New Zealand. "The CW is very slow; 2 minutes to send a dit ... corresponds to 0.01 WPM."

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, # 48

Guinness World Records Ltd has recognized the high-speed telegraphy achievement of Andrei Bindasov, EU7KI. "On 6 May 2003 Andrei Bindasov transmitted 216 marks of mixed text per minute during the 5th International Amateur Radio Union World Championship in High Speed Telegraphy in Belarus," (Guinness database) Witnessing the accomplishment in Minsk were HST International Referee Oscar Verbanck, ON5ME, also 3 Region 1 reps. Bindasov also sent 271 letters per minute and 230 figures per minute during those phases of the 2003 HST competition <http://www.qsl.net/yo4kca/hstrules.htm>

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of Wednesday,  
April 20th, 2005**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1930.

**Executive in attendance:**

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President;; Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president;; Second Vice-president – Darryl Perrin (VE1HUP); John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member-at-Large; and Dick Grantham (VE1AI) Past-president.

**Silent Keys:** Don Dunnington – VE1AMJ

Guests: Bob Petitpas – VE1RHP; Max Witherall – VE1XAM

**Minutes** of the monthly meeting of March 16, 2005:

**MOTION** - Approval of the minutes of the March monthly meeting as published in the April 2005 Reflector was moved by Peter (VE1PJW) and seconded by Jim (VE1SFX) – Motion carried.

**Executive Reports:**

**Treasurer** – John reported a March month-end bank balance of \$ 9,700.37. A hard copy of the report is appended to the hard copy of these minutes.

**MOTION** – acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Lynn (VE1ENT) and seconded by Jim (VE1JIM). Motion carried.

**Secretary** – Howard (VE1DHD) had nothing to report.

**President** – Bill announced that after discussion with the members of the Executive, the decision had been taken to offer RAC Atlantic Regional Director, Dave Goodwin (VO1AU), an opportunity to hold an open forum at the Down East Flea Market in order to allow RAC members and others an opportunity to receive an update on RAC and to put questions to the Director..

**First Vice-president** – Fraser (VE1WO) reported that Jason (VE1PLF) had been the successful bidder on the Yaesu FT-101EE transceiver that the Club was selling.

Callbook Sales - Fraser also reported current Callbook sales at 945 sold – remain-

ing stock will be taken to the Down East Flea Market for sale in June.

**Second Vice-president** – Darryl (VE1HUP) informed the membership that the Entertainment for the evening would be a tour of the CBC transmitter site on Geizer's Hill arranged by Rob (VE1KS).

**Station Manager** - Pat (VE1PHK) reported that he has two of the refurbished laptop computers up and running and is working on the others.

**Member-at-Large** –

Tom (VE1GTC) Nothing to report.

**Past-president** – Dick (VE1AI) reported that he had spoken with the owner of WriteLog contest logging software and we do have permission to use a Club copy of the program on several laptops during a contest. Dick will purchase the software on behalf of the Club.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership** – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that as of 20 April 2005, there are 142 paid-up members for 2005 (112 Full / 28 Associate / 2 Life). This represents the largest membership since 2001.

**Search & Rescue:** Dave (VE1AJP) reported that all had been quiet recently. He also mentioned that the Ground S&R team is writing a grant application to purchase GPS-capable microphones for their new ICOM radios.

**EMO** – Tom (VE1GTC) reported on a successful Exercise Sandpiper that took place on April 9th. There were a number of lessons learned and action will be taken to rectify the identified problems. Tom also mentioned that Dave (VE1EDA) is developing a survey that will be distributed to all Radio Amateurs who have taken the EMO Communications Course to ascertain their level of ongoing commitment to assisting with EMO emergency communications.

**Flea Market 2005** – Dave (VE1NN) declined to report on the state of planning for the Flea Market.

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary S&R Competition – Dick (VE1AI) reported that Industry Canada had refused a request for a special call sign prefix for the planned Special Event Station for the weekend of the competition (Sept. 30/ October 1).

**Old Business:** There was none.

**New Business:** There was none

**Reports & Announcements:**

**Basic Ham Course:** Scott (VE1QD) indicated his agreement to take over the organization of the Basic Ham Course in 2005/2006 and congratulated Howard (VE1DHD) on the success of the course this year with eleven graduates licenses so far.

**QSL Cards** – Howard (VE1DHD) reminded the membership that the Club will be proceeding with plans to have full-colour QSL cards printed. He indicated a new lower price per 1000 card of \$110 plus tax. This could be lowered further if additional individuals are interested in participating in this card run, and he asked interested individuals to contact him by email – VE1DHD@RAC.ca.

**DX Forum** – Scott (VE1QD) informed the membership that he has been successful in securing a corporate sponsor for the 2005 DX Forum. Nautel, a high technology electronics company located in Hacket's Cove on St. Margaret's Bay has agreed to host the Forum, providing lecture facilities and lunch.

**Public Relations** – Wayne (VE1WPH) reported that the Halifax **ARISS Reflector** (node # 9010) was now operational and had been used recently to provide communications with schools and a group from their base camp on Mt. Everest following a successful climb to the summit. Wayne also indicated that they are looking for someone with Web design skills to assist as a Web Master for the ARISS Reflector Web Site that they would like to see developed.

**VE1WS** – Jim (VE1SFX) reported that John was coming along well and hoped to be able to attend the meeting next month.

**Door Prize** – was a perpetual tool kit and was won by Pat (VE1PHK).

**50:50 Draw** – the draw (\$22.00) was won by Matt (VE1BSG).

On a motion by Rick (VE1RGG) the meeting adjourned at 2006 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by:

Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, Secretary

**Attention new Amateurs**

Any new amateurs obtaining their call-signs please let Tom, VE1GTC, know by phone at 477 7081 or e-mail – ve1gtc@rac.ca

**Solo Sailing Adventure***(Continued from page 4)*

eventually turning east between 50° and 52°N. This branch is called the North Atlantic Current. The other branch flows south-eastward towards the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and is called the Azores Current. You will notice that as the Azores Branch swings southward towards the Canary Islands it is located just off the coast of Portugal, and Nazare, Portugal is Richard's destination.

**The Amateur Radio Connection**

Richard was licensed General Class in 2001 and holds the call sign K1RBP. His motivation for becoming a Ham was simply to have the capability of receiving weather fax on board his boat, and sending and receiving email by way of the Winlink 2000 AirMail system that I wrote about a couple of months ago. He has an Icom M710 marine radio that also covers the Amateur Radio bands, along with a robust antenna tuner; his backstay is his antenna. Additionally, he has on board a PTC-IIe Pactor II modem which, coupled to a laptop will allow e-mail and weather fax while at sea. As an emergency backup, he will also carry a rented satellite phone. Diana plans to be in daily contact with Richard by way of email, but in order to achieve that added level of comfort, she wants to be able to hear his voice at least weekly. That is where VE1DHD comes into the picture.

I plan to follow Richard's progress from Cushing Maine to Nazare on a daily basis (where possible) with HF contacts on appropriate bands, depending upon his location - proximity to Halifax - and atmospheric conditions. The plan is to use my phone patch to link Diana up each week for a chat with Richard.

The HRM EMO/ham Advisory Committee Web page is at  
[www.ve1hre.ca](http://www.ve1hre.ca)

*"Cats aren't clean,  
they're just covered with  
cat spit."*

**NSARA CONTEST RESULTS** The following is the official result for the 7th annual NSARA CONTEST held March 13, 2005

The NSARA Contest Committee congratulates Merle Taylor, VE1VCI on her win in the 2005 contest. Merle operated both phone and CW from Lochaber, Antigonish County NS. For the past several years Merle has scored near the top, and this year is the winner by a considerable margin.

**RESULTS OF THE 7th ANNUAL NSARA CONTEST**

\*CS\* indicates "Clean Sweep"

1. VE1VCI - 2880 Pts. *CS* Merle	15. VE1SKY - 1530 Pts. *CS* Roger
2. VE1TL - 2520 Pts. *CS* Bev	16. N1RR - 1500 Pts. Charles
3. VE1LEO - 2340 Pts. *CS* Leo	17. VE1CSM - 1496 Pts. Colin
4. VE9SAB - 2178 Pts. *CS* Wayne	18. VE9ALX - 1326 Pts. Alexis
5(T) VE1GM - 1955 Pts. Dave	19. VE1MC - 1309 Pts. Brian
5(T) VE1KY - 1955 Pts. Basil	20. VE1LS - 1275 Pts. Leo
5(T) VE1LV - 1955 Pts. Hal	21. VE1AMP - 1274 Pts. Herb
8. VE1CZ - 1944 Pts. Bob	22. VE1AUZ - 1242 Pts. *CS* Martin
9. VE1HH - 1904 Pts. George	23. VE1NA - 1224 Pts. *CS* Alex
10. VE1AN - 1887 Pts. Art	24. VE1AAC - 1206 Pts. *CS* Gerry
11. VE1DFG - 1734 Pts. Doug	25. VE1AFH - 1188 Pts. *CS* Jim
12. VE1CKR - 1674 Pts. *CS* Mike	26. VE1AUI - 1116 Pts. *CS* Roy
13(T) VE1FZ - 1548 Pts. *CS* Tim	27. VE1BA - 1040 Pts. John
13(T) VE1ALG - 1548 Pts. *CS* Bill	

The following stations with scores of less than 1000 Points, are listed in alphabetical order.

VE1AUL *CS* Grace	VE1NL *CS* Mack	VE1WSM *CS* Wayne
VE1BBW - Dave	VE1QY - Barry	VE1WO - Fraser
VE1BYO - Tom	VE1RGB - Gary	VE1XYZ *CS* Paul
VE1DGS *CS* Paul	VE1RR *CS* Wayne	VE9CX - Hinson
VE1GLW *CS* Jerry	VE1SOL - Chuck	VE9NIX - Ron
VE1JBL - Jim	VE1TKS - Tom	VE9TNT - Doug
VE1NK - George	VE1VN *CS* Frank	VE9VAR - Robert

There were 48 logs submitted this year and many more stations participated by getting on the air and giving out their counties. Band conditions were very good as indicated by the higher scores.

Merle, VE1VCI; Bev, VE1TL; and Leo, VE1LEO; battled it out for first place this year. They were also the top three stations in 2004.

Thanks again to the "Lone Rangers" in Richmond, Inverness, Queens, Victoria, and Guysborough counties. By getting on the air contest day, they allowed other stations to get all the counties for a "Clean Sweep"

Thanks to all who took part in the 2005 NSARA Contest.

The NSARA Contest Committee

April 24, 2005

HARC has a stock of **Anderson Powerpole connectors** for sale at \$1.25 each (for a red and black connector for one complete end ). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at:  
[tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

*Be careful of what you say;  
you can never be sure what the  
words are going to do when they're  
out of earshot.* from "The Sea  
& Little Fishes" by Terry Pratchett

Halifax Information Radio 97.9 FM  
in the event of emergency becomes a  
communications arm of EMO.





## From the Mail Bag



From: Rick Gardiner  
To: Angela McDonald  
Subject: MS Walk

Do you have a final count of participants and pledges and/or amount of funds raised for the Walk?

Rick

From: Angela McDonald  
To: 'Rick Gardiner'

We had approximately 600 participants at the Halifax WALK and we have \$97,000 banked with more to come!

Angela



### Answer to puzzler on page 1

The Maunder Minimum was a period in history from approximately 1645-1715 when little or no sunspot activity was noted. Apparently the weather at the time was also affected and the growth rings of trees were very close together making for very dense wood. The famous violin makers, Stradivarius and Amati were making their instruments at that time and it is thought that the use of that wood is the reason no one has been able to duplicate the tone of their instruments to this day. For more information, check

[www.stsci.edu/stsci/meetings/lisa3/beckmanj.html](http://www.stsci.edu/stsci/meetings/lisa3/beckmanj.html)

Rain didn't stop these Ham Radio operators from providing communications for participants in the May 1/05 MS Walk

*Our newest group of CW Ops may be interested in this.*

Gary, VE1RGB

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2005

There are a bunch of new hams, and some longer in the hobby, all learning CW and working on increasing their speed over at the QRS-CW Yahoo Group. See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/QRS-CW/> for details.

Along with various CW discussions, the group is used to make skeds for practicing CW. If anyone wants to help out some budding CW ops, and are willing to QRS, check out the group and offer to schedule some contacts.

73, Darrell VA7TO

You don't have to go to PEI to see Wind Turbines. There are now Wind Turbines at West Pubnico. ed.



*"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia."*

—Charles Schultz!

Visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canadian\\_Amateur\\_Radio\\_Group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canadian_Amateur_Radio_Group/)

A small group of hams is planning to operate from the school house on Whitehead Island July 28 to Aug. 2. I hope you listen for us -ed.

I received a call yesterday from Industry Canada- they have given us VC9W for the Whitehead trip! The special event callsign, given because this is the 200th anniversary of the first settlers on Whitehead, will make us much more interesting outside the IOTA 24h contest period.

73, Fred VE1FA

**Intermod?** Want to know if a frequency is in commercial use in a particular area? This is a useful site. <http://neon.polkaroo.net/~darkwing/tafl/>

Paul, VE1XYZ, brought this site to our attention. (Thank you Paul.) On the site you go to the bottom of the page and type in the area and frequency, and VOILA, you get the locations of that frequency.

*From an e-mail from*  
Joe Bellefontaine VE1EEE :

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 10

This spring aboard the International Space Station (ISS): Heading the Expedition 11 crew will be space veteran and Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, who will be doing his 2nd tour of duty aboard the ISS. The licensing of US Astronaut John Phillips, KE5DRY, eliminates complications for Amateur Radio on the ARISS) school group contacts. Phillips and Krikalev were scheduled to begin their six-month stay aboard the ISS in April. A seasoned space traveler, Phillips, will serve as flight engineer and as NASA ISS science officer during Expedition 11. Krikalev served as flight engineer on the very first ISS crew and did duty tours aboard the Russian Mir space station in the late 1980s and early 1990s. By the end his Expedition 11 stay, he'll have spent more time in space than any other human



**Working on Roofs Part III -**

Reasearched &amp; written by

Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB

(From the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations)

Below is an extract from the COSH Regulations, hope this clears up any questions. Any further concerns can be found at the following web site:

[http://regulation.](http://regulation.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.asp#SectionNumber:11.2)

[healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.](http://regulation.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.asp#SectionNumber:11.2)  
[asp#SectionNumber:11.2](http://regulation.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.asp#SectionNumber:11.2)

**G11.2-2 Selecting a method of fall protection**

Effective August 16, 2000

Section 11.2 of the OHS Regulation prescribes a hierarchy of choices in subsections (2) to (5). The employer must use "guardrails...or other similar means of fall restraint" under subsection (2) if it is practicable for the work process. If it is not practicable, the employer can use another fall restraint system under subsection (3). However, the employer cannot use a fall arrest system under subsection (4) unless it is impracticable to use any fall restraint system under subsections (2) and (3). The control zone system, safety monitor with control zone system and other procedures authorized by subsection (5) can only be used if it is impracticable to use a fall restraint or arrest system required under the preceding subsections.

The selection of a method for fall protection depends on what is practicable and is not a matter of free choice for the employer. What is practicable will depend on the circumstances of each workplace and be a matter of assessment and judgment. The following examples cover some typical situations:

- Guardrails will generally be considered practicable in high traffic areas at the elevated edges of slabs and floors on buildings or structures under construction. The temporary removal of guardrails to facilitate work is covered in section 11.5 of the Regulation.

- When a worker needs to be on or near the top plate of a wood frame

structure to facilitate part of the erection process, such as to position and fasten joists or trusses to the plate, fall protection is required if the fall distance will be 3 metres or more. Generally this condition will exist along the outer side of the perimeter walls. It will normally be practicable to erect guardrails along the outer side of the wall, or to work from a single pole scaffold (with guardrails if necessary) from either side of the wall, or use another method of fall restraint or arrest.

- If guardrails currently exist, an employer cannot tear them down and substitute another form of fall protection, such as a safety monitor and control zone system, simply because it will make the work easier. The fact that guardrails currently exist suggests that it is practicable to use that form of fall protection.

- Where a roof is under repair, it may not be practicable to install guardrails due to such factors as the small number of workers involved and the short duration of the job. In this situation, it will generally be practicable to use a fall restraint system consisting of a belt or harness and a lifeline, connected to a suitable anchor, and rigged to prevent the worker from going beyond the unguarded edge(s).

- A fall arrest system will likely be appropriate where there is no sizable work platform, for example, on a bridge girder, or where it is not reasonable to expect use of any fall restraint system due to the small number of workers and the short duration of the job.

Sections 11.5 to 11.40 of the OHS Regulation contain detailed requirements for each of the methods of fall protection that may limit the situations when they can be used.

Some provisions outside of part 11 of the OHS Regulation that require fall protection in particular areas limit the range of choices that might otherwise exist. For example, with regard to swing stages, section 13.148 requires guardrails and, in

addition, section 13.151 requires that, where a fall of 3 metres or more may occur, a worker must use a personal fall arrest system secured to an independently anchored lifeline.

**G11.2-4 Work procedures acceptable to the board**

Effective August 16, 2000

Section 11.2(5)(c) of the OHS Regulation allows the use of "other procedures acceptable to the board" where the fall restraint and fall arrest methods authorized by sections 11.2(2) to (4) are not practicable or will result in greater hazards.

Some typical situations where work procedures may be acceptable because other forms of fall protection are impracticable are:

- Installation or removal of fall protection equipment (first person up/last person down)

- Light duty work for short duration, for example,

- - - Working off of a portable ladder doing a "light duty task", such as inspection or painting, where the duration of work at each spot where the ladder is set will be for approximately 15 minutes or less. While doing the task, the worker must keep his/her center of gravity (worker's belly button) between the side rails of the ladder, and must generally have one hand available to hold on to the ladder or other support to maintain three points of contact (see also section 13.8(3)). (Note if the duration of the work on a ladder is likely to exceed 15 minutes, some form of fall restraint or fall arrest protection should be used.)

- - - Roof inspection or estimating, provided the worker minimizes exposure to any unguarded edge as much as possible, and provided other factors such as environmental (wind, ice), roof slope and surface finish do not present an undue hazard.

- - - Brief transfers between fall protection systems where the worker is protected by having a "3 point

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

#### Working on Roofs Part III

stance" (two feet placed firmly on a suitable supporting surface along with one hand supporting the worker, while the other hand is used to transfer a connection from one fall protection system to another.)

- Work requiring constant re-positioning, for example

- During the primary connection of skeletal structures, workers employed in the initial placement of skeletal members requiring climbing and walking on the bare structure may, depending on the particulars of the work to be done, be covered by section 11.2(5)(c). Trades with activities of this nature would include scaffold erectors, tower erectors, blowpipe ventilation erectors, structural steel erectors and tower crane erectors. Workers on the structure engaged in welding, bolt installation, other fitting out work and climbing or walking on skeletal members should be able to use the fall protection methods referred to in sections 11.2(2), (3) and (4).

- Workers on roofs engaged in a process that will foul lifelines, such as roofing tar work, should work under the protection of procedures as specified in sections 11.2(5)(a) and (b).

- Emergencies such as fire fighting (see subsection 31.17(4)), or the correction of an unsafe condition.

- Use of the normal fall protection methods results in greater hazard, for example, if using an auxiliary escape apparatus provided to meet the requirements of section 23.39 of the OHS Regulation.

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities but **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK (E-mail [ve1phk@rac.ca](mailto:ve1phk@rac.ca))

This is to prevent the disappointment of arriving at the Club Station and finding someone else has booked it for the same time you wanted to use it. **So booking with Pat is a must!!**

#### Object and Overlays for UI-View Users

Objects and overlays are used to mark locations within UI-View software. Each has a particular use and it is helpful to know the difference.

**Objects** are things that are capable of having their locations beacons as position reports. They are very easily created as follows: move the mouse pointer over the map to the correct position, left click to mark the spot and then press the 'F5' key to create the object. Enter the appropriate information and symbol and click 'Enter'. The object beacon time is set in the menu by: 'Setup' 'Miscellaneous' 'Object Interval (min.)'. The "Object Expiry Time" should be set at the same time with the same setup menu. Objects are very helpful during events like the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour to mark locations like Rest Stops because their positions can be shared with other stations. The beacon rate should not be excessive... once per hour may be sufficient. Object beacons can be sent once in the morning to all monitoring stations and they will remain until the object expiry time is reached. Object information can be sent on demand with the 'Action' 'Send Objects' menu item. UI-View has the ability to track objects.

Note that the call sign of the "Object Owner" is included in the transmission of the position report. The Owner is also clearly identified in UI-View in the detail position report under "Owner". There is also an option to activate or deactivate an Object with the EDIT OBJECT menu.

**Overlays** are similar to "Objects" but their locations are not transmitted and they cannot be tracked. They can be used for information on your particular screen only. You can share this information by sending someone the appropriate data file if required. Location and symbol information for overlays has to be entered into a text file located in the OVERLAY subdirectory in UI-View. You can choose whatever file name you like. The information is structures as follows:

RS1!4450.84N/06312.11W ARest Stop 1

RS1>MS Bike Tour Rest Stop Number 1

Each overlay requires two lines of text: one for position report (LatN/LonW) and symbol (like AAid Station1) and the other for addition information which is similar to Beacon Text. Note that the identifier must be the same for each of the two lines followed by (!) for location line and (>) for status text line.

Overlays may be loaded and unload as required. Separating overlays into multiple files allows you to selectively load information. To load an overlay file use the menu: Action – Overlays – Load Overlay. You unload them in a similar manner. There are many references to overlay symbols on the internet and they don't always appear as you expect them to. One location to view these is: <http://www.aprs.net/vm/DOS/SYMBOLS.HTM>

There are many web sights with newer windows based icons as well.

'73 Rick, VE1RGG

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, #10

Version 1.11 of the TrustedQSL software used with ARRL's Logbook of the World system now is available. Windows, Linux and Mac OS users are encouraged to update their systems. The new version fixes a serious bug that affected Linux and Mac OS X versions of the software. Windows users of the TrustedQSL software should update to the new version. The updated Windows version of the TQSL program now signs log data much faster. Instructions for downloading & installing the software are available on the ARRL's LoTW Web page <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>